Assistance to Kerala in IT

2980. SHRI J. CHITHARANIAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :—

(a) Whether the Kerala State Government has sought Rs. 447 crore assistance from the Centre to implement various Information Technology projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PROMOD MAHAJAN):

(a) No such proposal has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

New Technology for eradicating poverty

2981. SHRIMATl AMBKA SONI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plans to harness newer technologies like infotech for eradicating poverty in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the challenge of ever increasing number of Internet users, particularly in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) :

(a) and (b) Harnessing of Information Technology' (IT) is a continuous process. Some of the on-going efforts include:—

Computerisation of a variety of application right upto the district level supported by a nationwide computer network called NICNET.

Encouragement of all Central Ministries/Departments to spend upto 3% of their budget on IT,

Progressive emphasis by State and Central Governments to introduce governance, thus leading to increased efficiency and transparency.

In North Eastern Region, community information centres are being set up at all of the 486 blocks.

In education, use of computers have been promoted.

*in schools

*skills are being imparted to meet growing IT industry needs and